

REMARKS

Claims 72, 74, and 76-98 are pending in this application. Claim 75 has been rewritten in independent form as amended claim 72 thereby necessitating the cancellation of claims 73 and 75 from the application. The dependency of claims 74 and 76 has been amended accordingly. Allowable claim 88 has been rewritten in independent form in the amended claims. No new matter has been added to the application by way of these claim amendments.

I. STATUS OF THE APPLICATION

In the April 22, 2004 Final Rejection, the examiner indicated that claims 92-98 were allowable and that claims 75-77 and 88-91 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all intervening claim elements. All other claims were finally rejected by the examiner. The applicants have amended the application claims – as discussed below – to remove all rejected claims from the application.

The examiner is reminded that a Petition to Make Special has been granted in this case and the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner process this Reply with special dispatch.

II. ALL CLAIMS NOW INCLUDE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The applicants have re-drafted allowable claim 75 in independent form, including intervening dependent claim 73, as amended claim 72. Allowable claim 88 has been redrafted in independent form as well. As a result of these claim amendments, only claims that were allowed or that were indicated by the examiner to be allowable in the April 22, 2003 Final Rejection remain in the application. The amendments above are made without prejudice to the applicant's right to introduce the cancelled claims in a continuing application.

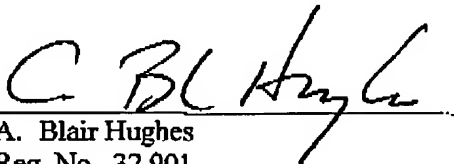
CONCLUSION

All pending application claims are believed to be allowable in view of the claim amendments made above. Favorable consideration and allowance of all pending application claims 72, 74, and 76-98 is, therefore, courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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